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SC Governor - Messages
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1987

THE HOUSE RESUMES

At 6:58 P.M. the House resumed, the SPEAKER in the Chair.

JOINT ASSEMBLY

At 6:59 P.M. the Senate appeared in the Hall of the House.

The President of the Senate called the Joint Assembly to order and announced that it had convened under the terms of a Concurrent Resolution adopted by both Houses.

H. 2111 -- Rep. Sheheen: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION INVITING HIS EXCELLENCY, CARROLL A. CAMPBELL, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO ADDRESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JOINT SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1987.

Governor Campbell was escorted to the rostrum by Senators Dennis, Wilson and Mitchell and Reps. T.M. BURRISS, WILKINS and DANGERFIELD.

The PRESIDENT introduced Governor Campbell who then addressed the Joint Assembly as follows:

ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR CARROLL A. CAMPBELL

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE 107TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SOUTH CAROLINA COLUMBIA, JANUARY 28, 1987

"Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the General Assembly, my fellow South Carolinians, and especially a hello to my son, Mike, who is confined in the hospital tonight:

I welcome this opportunity to report to you on the general condition of the State of South Carolina and to present to you programs for your consideration in this legislative year.

It's good to be back home in South Carolina, Mr. President and Mr. Speaker, especially in the General Assembly, where I served a number of years with

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many of you, and where I made some lasting friendships.

We have worked together before and we will work together again. We will build bridges of cooperation and conciliation that transcend partisan politics in order to build a better South Carolina.

Fourteen days ago I assumed the role of Chief Executive of the State of South Carolina, and I shared with you then my vision for the state. Tonight I will report to you on the state of the state as I see it and will make specific recommendations on fulfilling the hopes and the dreams that I hope we all share: Providing better opportunities for all South Carolinians.

In my inaugural address I talked about the true heroes of South Carolina past and present. One was Dr. Ron McNair, the astronaut who died in the space shuttle disaster. Today is the first anniversary of the tragic flight of the Challenger, and out of respect for Ron McNair and his family, I ask that we pause for a moment of silence in remembrance of a great South Carolinian who gave his life to better this entire state. If you would stand a moment and join me.

Thank you. Tonight I want to tell you about another hero, a hero right here at home. Last Thursday Charles Page, who commutes to Columbia going to school, spotted a car that ran off the road into a lake in Columbia. He stopped his car, with no thought for his own safety, he dove into the cold water and he pulled Mrs. Thomasina Davenport from the cold water of that lake and that sinking vehicle. His quick and selfless action saved Mrs. Davenport's life. I would like the General Assembly to greet Charles Page and Mrs. Davenport who have joined us tonight in the balcony. I would ask Mr. Page and Mrs. Davenport to stand, please. There's a new story involved with Mr. Page and Mrs. Davenport. I told you that he was coming back and forth, commuting from Sumter to go to school. Mrs. Davenport and her family have asked him to stay with them while he goes to school,

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rather than have to take that long commute. So two good things came out of a very tragic situation.

People helping people. People working together for the good of all. That's South Carolina. Unselfish people. Caring people. Disciplined people. Our challenge as the elected representatives of the people is to create a climate in which every individual has the opportunity to realize his or her fondest dream. We can meet this challenge and we shall meet it if we work together.

My travels across this state during the last year have convinced me that the people have four priorities that I know of:

--They want more accountability for their tax dollars and they're tired of overspending and budgeting chaos.

--They want more jobs and a higher standard of living which means more people paying taxes, not the same people paying more taxes.

--They want a system of education that gives every child the opportunity to achieve a good education and they want accountability in that system.

--And the people want fairness restored in the area of insurance in this state.

I agree with these priorities. Budgeting reform, education, economic development and automobile insurance reform are my priorities.

As we complete the first month of a new year, the state of the state is really a state of transition. Commitments have been made. Now they must be honored. Systems within government have been built. Now they must be managed. Bold initiatives have been taken. They must be fine tuned and paid for.

What I offer tonight is not something for everyone. A planned approach is what I offer, a planned approach offering a government responsive to real needs and responsible for its actions.

With this in mind let me say the most urgent challenge confronting us is to develop a responsible budget process which frees us from the shackles of mid-year budget cuts.

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The budget process goes to the heart of our ability to govern. It in large measure determines the quality of services our people receive for their tax dollars. It even dictates how many tax dollars our citizens pay.

Here's the state of the budget process today:

*We've had mid-year budget cuts five years out of the last seven years and we are facing another round of budget cuts before the end of this fiscal year.

*These cuts disrupt the entire operation of state government. Our inability to discern good programs from bad programs forces cuts for everyone.

*We therefore have locked ourselves into a cycle where priorities are disrupted and programs are thrown into confusion.

Our problems don't stem from a lack of money, because state general fund revenues have increased every year of this decade. What would have happened if we hadn't had increases? Spending is growing faster than revenues in South Carolina. That's the basic problem. We've locked ourselves into funding formulas with automatic increases and we've been locked into certain spending patterns by federal mandates.

We also need to face the fact that we rarely question or examine the base budget in this state. We ask agencies to justify only increases in their funding--and not their current level of spending.

Mid-year budget cuts. Spending growth exceeding revenue growth. Unquestioning acceptance of the base budget. As a result of these problems, the amount of money available for new programs in economic development, education and other areas is continually declining.

These problems mean something to you. They mean that the elected officials do not control the budget. They mean that it is really controlled by unelected administrators, who set the priorities within agencies. It's controlled by funding formulas, and it's controlled by federal mandates.

They also mean constant pressure to raise taxes and we've raised taxes in South Carolina eleven times in the last seven years. The pressure's

real, and the system responds to it. My position is this: We dare not even consider any general tax increases while our budgetary house in this state is out of order. To consider any general tax increase would be shirking our responsibility and breaking faith with the people who sent us here to make tough decisions.

The Tax Commission tells me that if we just had three percent better compliance in paying taxes--just three percent--then it would mean \$90 million a year to the treasury. Tonight I propose a covenant with the taxpayers of the state of South Carolina: I'll do my duty to make sure your money is spent wisely and you do your duty by complying with the tax laws of this state. It's essential we all make that type of covenant.

Of course, with every problem comes opportunity, and this is no exception. The seriousness of our plight today creates an opportunity for fundamental reform that will serve the taxpayers well for many years to come. While we can't accomplish everything in one year, we can take some immediate steps to improve the situation.

I therefore will submit for your consideration legislation that limits general fund appropriations in one fiscal year to the actual general fund revenue that was collected the preceding calendar year, plus a growth rate of no more than five percent. The Board of Economic Advisers, under this legislation, would be required to submit its final estimate by January 31st of each year. I also propose that any surplus revenue -- and there will be some surplus revenue some years -- be used for the capital expenditure fund, which could assist in building schools and projects to meet our infrastructure needs in this state.

Had this proposal been adopted before the decade began, we would have eliminated all of the mid-year budget cuts that we've gone through.

Tying base budgets into actual collections will give us solid facts to work with...not murky, unrealistic economic forecasts. And capping the growth rate to a maximum of five percent will

instill discipline in a process that today has no discipline.

I am asking you to approve the budgeting process as you deliberate the budget for fiscal year 1987-88.

But, even with budgeting reform, we still can't pay for the programs we've committed ourselves to. We must separate our wants from our needs and we must fund our needs in this state through economic growth, if we are to pay for the commitments that we've made. I pledge my best effort to this endeavor. To help accomplish economic development I shall appoint a South Carolina Council on Competitiveness made up of business leaders from across the state. The Council will have staff support from the Development Board and will constantly monitor the regulations and the tax laws of our State to make sure that we remain competitive with other states.

I shall seek a constitutional amendment to allow payments in lieu of taxes, as other states have done, so that we may negotiate with companies that are seeking to locate in South Carolina. We are at a distinct disadvantage in this area.

In order to help new companies get started I am proposing a state-wide private sector capital seed fund to invest in new businesses in South Carolina. This will provide needed capital to small and minority businesses, particularly in agriculture and aquaculture. An incentive to invest in such a fund would be that a portion of the funds could be deducted from state income taxes. This is a plan that has been adopted in a number of other states.

In tax changes that will help us be more competitive, I recommend a credit against state taxes for infrastructure improvements that are paid for by any private company in projects that have been state accredited. And I propose that eligible projects be approved by the Coordinating Council on Economic Development.

I also propose an expansion of the job tax credit which today is limited to less than half of our counties. The more rural or poorer counties and

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agriculture/aquaculture investments should have a larger credit, but it should be available statewide. Further, I propose to modify the South Carolina corporate franchise and corporate income tax. I propose that to remove disincentives for investments in South Carolina. Today, a company with new investments in South Carolina will pay a higher rate than a company with only expanded sales. That means that a company could do business from outside the state and get a cheaper rate than a company that invested and expanded their investments here. That works against us, ladies and gentlemen.

I further propose a reduction in the tax on airline fuels for any airline that will establish a hub in South Carolina and have a minimum of ten flights out every day going to at least five cities outside of South Carolina. It is absolutely essential if we are going to grow and compete in the business world, that we have an airline hub established in the State of South Carolina. And we're going to try to get one.

One of the major complaints that I heard throughout the year was that it is so difficult to get the proper forms in this state to start a new business. I therefore am proposing that we create an office of Business Ombudsman in the Office of the Governor. I shall do this out of existing funds. This office will aid new businesses, or businesses that are interested in expanding, in putting together all of the forms that they might need for that effort. And while I am at this let me say that next month the Tax Commission will start a program where any new business can get all of its tax forms at one place, instead of having to go to different divisions to pick up tax forms. It's a step in the right direction that will complement the actions we are taking, and I applaud them for taking that action. We must make it easier to go in business in this state, but we can't do anything without long-term strategic planning. The Coordinating Council for Economic Development is charged with long-term strategic planning and I pledge my support in working with

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them in that endeavor. But as we speak of long-range strategic planning let us also be keenly aware of water development and highway development, which are integral parts of the infrastructure package of this state, and must be a part of the long-range plan. We have to plan for the future in these areas.

In order to build the infrastructure of this state, which is desperately needed, I am endorsing a proposal put forward by the State Treasurer Grady Patterson to create an infrastructure bank under the Budget and Control Board. Such an infrastructure bank would package and distribute loans at a lower cost to the subdivisions of this state in order to build water and sewer projects. They are aimed at aiding economic development.

In addition, I am creating a Water Coordinating Council, by Executive Order, between the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Division of Local Government of the Budget and Control Board, the Coordinating Council on Economic Development, the Water Resources Commission and the State Treasurer. This Council will coordinate efforts to utilize and leverage federal funds with state funds as we create low interest loans for the development of water and sewer projects throughout South Carolina. The efforts will complement, not duplicate, the effort of the infrastructure bank.

In the area of highway development, we should have a plan that is comprehensive and funded entirely by itself. In order to fund such a plan, I make several proposals. One, I propose that we support efforts in the Congress of the United States to amend the federal highway legislation to allow the use of 4-R operating and maintenance funds to go into highway construction funds in conjunction with state funds. This should be able to free an estimated 12 million dollars for construction purposes. I also propose that we back the federal legislation which would eliminate the prohibition against the use of a mixture of federal funds and any funds that are derived from tolls on any roads to give us other options to work with.

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And finally I propose that if we're going to build an infrastructure in highways in this state, they are going to open up parts of South Carolina not now open. That when we put the package together, the counties, in a part of the strategic plan use a portion of their "C" funds in the mixture, to help to pay for those things that will open up their counties. We dare not look and we should not look for any new tax money until you have explored all of these items.

And finally, in the area of economic development let me say this. I believe it is the Governor's responsibility to be the chief ambassador for our State and the chief salesman. Accordingly I will devote every effort to doing just that. Budgetary reforms and economic development are not ends in themselves. They are essential components to a process to create better opportunities for our citizens. But there is another essential component: Education. Despite budget problems and shortfalls and other pressing matters, we cannot back away from our commitment to fund the future.

We have tough decisions to make. The 25 percent sales tax increase has fallen short, and therefore promises which were made are difficult to fund out of revenues that don't come. State Superintendent of Education Charlie Williams recently noted: 'It is painfully obvious...that we as a state have envisioned, planned and initiated more programs than we (can) fund.'

We therefore must establish priorities and use as our major criteria those programs which are absolutely vital for our children. I will work closely with you in establishing those priorities.

In my opinion we have little choice but to stay on track in fighting adult illiteracy which, despite our efforts, continues to cast a shadow over progress in education. And we cannot forsake that vast number of young people who are looking to vocational education as the way to break into the sunlight of opportunity. Sufficient time must be given and access made easy for every student who chooses this course of study.

But as we fight budget problems to keep our short-term commitment to education, let us acknowledge that if we are truly dedicated to upgrading education in this state long-term, we must at some point lower the pupil-teacher ratio in kindergarten and get a foundation under the children.

We know from experience that children who get off to a bad start often wind up with a bad finish. Our challenge in future years is to find the money to get more children off to a good start.

We need to provide students who excel in math and science an accelerated foundation from which to branch out to colleges and universities and into business and industry. It is important to our long-term plan to establish a full-time school for Math and Science for gifted eleventh and twelfth grade students so we can keep the best and brightest in South Carolina.

The state has affirmed that an important part of excellence in education starts with competent teachers and a commitment was made to take the teachers of this state to the southeastern average in salary. This has been accomplished and I will support every effort to maintain that average this year, and I hope that you will join me in that effort. For the 1987-88 year, that is the answer. However, we must recognize that a larger and larger percentage of Education Improvement Act funds is going to salaries and in the future, you of the General Assembly and I must have to face the fact that we will have to decide which programs are funded and how the money is to be divided.

But, as we strive to maintain competitive salary levels, and as we strive to improve opportunities, we must not back off from insisting on the highest possible standards for teachers. Any lowering of objective standards for teachers will lead to mass mediocrity among teachers and students alike. This we cannot tolerate. Indeed, we must continue our efforts to find the means to reward our best teachers for their performance.

It is estimated that the school building program is from one to two billion dollars behind because

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of insufficient funds. I have no quick or easy answers for you tonight. But I do recommend that we establish a bond pool at the state level for construction and renovation to make low interest monies available.

As we grapple with funding education this year, I want to add a word of caution: We should not raid the Education Finance Act. That is short-sighted, to go into the Education Finance Act to fund other programs. You don't take bricks out of the foundation of a house to build a chimney.

I remain opposed to modifying the Basic Skills test, the minimum achievement standards or the exit exam requirement even though the spring failure rate was high. Finally, let me say it's not right for us to mandate programs we don't pay for. When we do this, the school districts must pay for them and the costs go right back to property owners, whose property taxes are too high already.

Two other key components to education excellence are our institutions for technical and higher education. I strongly recommend that the General Assembly, through the budgeting process, redefine the missions of both to their original missions.

We can't have a system of higher education that will provide opportunities to everybody, but every institution of higher education can't provide every opportunity. We don't have the money to fund it. Technical education should train people for existing jobs and should not be involved in the same academic curricula available at four-year state universities unless there are no state colleges or universities in the area. Conversely, state universities have no business offering remedial courses which are available in other schools in the area.

If we are to meet our goals of economic development which are so critical to our future, our universities must be heavily involved in research and development for tomorrow's businesses and industries. This is where the action is; this is where the jobs are.

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I therefore call upon the General Assembly to support the Research Investment Act, which will link the University of South Carolina, Clemson and the Medical University of South Carolina into a strong and vibrant research and development entity. The General Assembly should make a commitment to fund a portion of this project. I recognize that we are short, but it is a step that we should take. Any savings resulting from elimination of remedial education at our universities should go towards funding this effort.

Budgetary reform, economic development and education...three cornerstones for building for the future. But there's a fourth area which needs elaboration: The area of insurance. It has been my contention for quite some time that South Carolina is out of line in certain key insurance categories. The cost of insurance goes right to the pocketbooks of business people and individuals throughout the state and it is therefore our duty to address these problem areas.

First, automobile liability insurance. Our rates for good drivers are way out of line.

In 1984 South Carolina had the fourteenth highest average automobile insurance premium in the nation. Statistics have shown that the rate for a 35 year old male with a good driving record and driving a new Chevrolet Caprice in South Carolina is 25.8% higher than in Augusta, Georgia and 63.8% higher than Raleigh, North Carolina. The difference in premiums between Raleigh and Columbia means about five weeks worth of groceries for the average family. That is the price that we're paying. Or, as stated by the report of the Joint Legislative Automobile Liability Insurance Study Committee, chaired by Senator Saleeby: 'The Committee continues to be concerned over the fact that a relatively small and predominately rural state with low per capita income can have rates higher than states such as Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska and Florida.'

Major automobile insurance reform is clearly needed in South Carolina. Any reform, however,

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should be consistent with four main goals: (1) maintaining compulsory insurance; (2) prohibiting any form of subjective underwriting; (3) correcting the practice of good drivers subsidizing bad drivers too much; and (4) significantly cutting losses in the reinsurance facility, which in 1986 reached 100 million dollars.

To accomplish these goals I propose a system of redistributing reinsurance facility losses so that the automobile insurance companies would no longer be allowed to include these huge losses in their base rate filings. Instead, the annual facility loss should be divided in some proportion between the drivers with clean records and those with chargeable accidents and traffic violations, with the heaviest burden falling on bad drivers. Since the prior facility losses would be eliminated from the base rates, the net result should benefit good drivers.

Steps must also be taken to reduce automobile insurance losses. Drivers with repeated accidents and violations should be penalized more severely than they are now. To do this, drivers who fail objective standards should be required to pay substantially more for automobile insurance than those with clean records. In addition, automobile insurance companies should not be required to write physical damage coverage for objectively bad drivers. Lastly, statutes should be passed to eliminate all forms of stacking.

Our high insurance rates are produced not only by our insurance laws, but also by another significant factor: bad drivers. In comparative data showing percentage changes for 1985 versus 1984 for the fifty states, South Carolina was first in percentage increase of injuries, second in percentage increase in accidents, eleventh in percentage increase in fatalities. Any automobile insurance reform which does not also focus on highway safety will have little chance of success in rolling back insurance rates.

Strong legislation is needed on the subject of highway safety, particularly dealing with driving

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under the influence of alcohol or drugs, which causes a high percentage of our traffic accidents. I accordingly call for legislation:

--Confiscating drivers licenses from anyone convicted of a violation which would result in the loss or suspension of his driver's license. Any person whose license is revoked or suspended should be required to surrender the license immediately to the judge and be given a temporary receipt to drive home.

--Requiring uniform treatment from the circuit solicitors for arrested drivers who register between .10 and .15 on the breathalyzer test.

--Amending of our implied consent statutes to add chemical and blood tests, thereby allowing law enforcement officials to require tests for driving under the influence of drugs.

I endorse tougher penalties for driving uninsured and under suspension. I also support legislation to reduce fines for minor traffic violations provided the offending driver is wearing a seatbelt when stopped.

In another area that impacts insurance, it is time to recognize the need for tort reform in South Carolina. This need is justified not only by what's happening to insurance premiums and availability, but more importantly to ensure fairness and to reach the goal of making South Carolina more competitive for business and industry.

I accordingly call for legislation which will:

--Modify the rule of joint and several liability.

--Shorten the statute of limitations to three years.

--Strengthen sanctions imposed against frivolous litigation.

--And tie non-economic injuries to a percentage of actual loss.

Reform is long overdue in the area of worker's compensation. Our high worker's compensation rates are discouraging industry from locating in our state and the practice of allowing members of the General Assembly to appear before the State Fund has eroded public confidence in the system. I

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applaud the efforts of Representative Martin and Senator Drummond in identifying the problems in the current system.

I accordingly call for legislation which would bar members of the General Assembly from appearing for a fee before the State Fund and the Worker's Compensation Commission. We should discontinue the practice of allowing the Worker's Compensation Commissioners to adjudicate claims brought by fellow Commissioners.

I call for the creation of an independent appeals panel in those circumstances made up of circuit court judges to hear appeals of any case concerning Commissioners and Commission employees. We also need to pay more attention in the worker's compensation process to vocationally rehabilitating injured workers. Fee schedules or guidelines are needed to better regulate attorney's fees so that the injured claimant receives a greater share of the award.

Finally I have asked for a study on the feasibility of hiring fulltime hearing officers, as you do on most other Commissions...reducing the size of the Commission itself...and using the Commission only as an appeals panel from the hearing officers.

Our system of criminal justice has benefited from the services of fine men and women in law enforcement. Tonight let me make this crystal clear. My administration will be tough on crime. And I'm going to back up this General Assembly as you are tough on crime.

A crackdown on drug abuse will be a priority of this administration. Accordingly I call upon the General Assembly to enact a mandatory ten-year prison term for adults convicted of selling hard narcotics within one-half mile of a school.

I also urge you to support the concept put forward by Attorney General Travis Medlock to modernize the grand jury system in order to make it a more effective tool in the war against illegal drugs. Grand juries are now limited in their jurisdictions while the drug pushers have no regard for county

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lines. It would allow the state to operate on a multiple county basis and we would strike a major blow against crime by adopting this proposal.

South Carolina's failure to have a unified crime classification system has caused problems with other states in the area of extradition. We need to redefine crimes, so that all crimes under one year are in the misdemeanor category, and those over that are felonies.

My office is currently reviewing the Nelson settlement to determine if we are overcomplying with the agreement to relieve crowded prisons. One area of possible overcompliance is the two prisons being built containing single cells of 73 square feet each, as opposed to 50 square feet called for in the settlement.

We obviously have no choice but to meet the federally-imposed guidelines, and we certainly need to update our prisons. But we do not have to do more than is absolutely necessary because it is a drain on the taxpayers that we can't afford.

The Omnibus Crime Bill establishes a shock incarceration program for young offenders. I am hopeful the Department of Corrections will see fit to model it after the Georgia program in which young offenders are put through a rigorous exercise and work regimen to dissuade them from committing further criminal acts.

We should offer certain classes of young offenders a light at the end of the tunnel, however, by enabling their records to be expunged after a stipulated period of time to open the door to the future.

In the broad area of health and human services, no program is more exciting to me personally than the seven federally funded pilot projects for one-stop eligibility that are now being managed by the Reorganization Commission in South Carolina. To the recipients--whether they be poor, elderly or disabled--one-stop means an end to the nightmare of paperwork and bureaucracy in applying for assistance. To government it means a single

standard system by which to monitor, evaluate, budget, fund and plan for all human services.

These one-stop projects will be in full gear later this year and I commend it to your attention because it represents the best in efficiency and compassion.

And efficiency is important. We're already being told that our Medicaid program is \$24 million in the red. Programs will be cut and people will be hurt. It is time for the state Medicaid program to implement cost containment recommendations and sound fiscal policies that have continually been suggested in management audits and legislative studies since the late 1970's. We have other agencies in state government that have been sanctioned by the federal government for non-compliance with federal regulations and the threatened loss to our state is in the millions. It is time that the managers of state government did their jobs, and it's time that we, the elected officials, looked over their shoulder, and made them do it.

I fully appreciate that times have tightened, not only for state government, but for local governments. While increasing demands have been placed upon our cities, towns and counties to provide more and better services, their sources of revenues have been extremely limited.

We must give local governments limited means to deal with these problems without increasing the pressure on property owners.

I am supportive of the proposed Local Government Finance Act with two stipulations: that there should never be a local income tax in the state of South Carolina and when new means are used revenue that one-third of the new revenue should go to cutting tax rates and lowering property taxes in this state.

As we are all aware, there have been some drastic changes made in our Federal tax laws. In 1985, South Carolina made the commitment to conform our state laws with federal tax laws, and I believe we should continue in our effort to remain in

conformity. However, in achieving conformity, we must adjust state tax rates to equalize the distribution and disparity created by the changes in the federal tax system. In light of these disparities, I will offer some recommendations for the tax conformity legislation that will provide some relief for the two wage earner families who are under constant pressure to make ends meet and cannot afford growing tax burdens. These changes include eliminating the two percent bracket, adopting a two wage earner credit of seven percent, and conforming state withholdings with federal withholdings statutes in regards to the number of withholding exemptions that a taxpayer may claim.

Another major area of importance to our state is the environment. Along with her people, her natural resources are her greatest asset. We suffered a near tragedy on the coast, and we had serious problems. Tonight I spoke with Senator Thurmond and I spoke with the Small Business Administration, and I'm pleased to report to you that this afternoon the Small Business Administration approved my request that Charleston, Georgetown, Horry and Colleton Counties be declared disaster areas, and immediately be eligible for low interest loans. We are going to have do an awful lot on our coast. And this is just the first step in dealing with the disaster.

Finally, as an original author of South Carolina's first Freedom of Information law, along with a colleague who died last week, Troy Hyatt, who was the main sponsor, I urge the General Assembly to tighten the law this year. It is imperative that the public have confidence in the way we do our business.

Speaking of the way we do business, there must be some substantial changes in the leases in the building across the street, before the public's confidence can be restored.

I realize that I've presented a full plate to you tonight and I recognize that all of this will not be accomplished in one year. But I am convinced that these proposals are necessary...they are

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urgent...they deserve full and open debate. And I seek your cooperation as all of us work together to provide opportunities for all South Carolinians.

Abraham Lincoln said 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' And the Gospel of Luke tells us 'Unto whom much is given much is required.'

Those of us in this chamber tonight have been given the ultimate privilege in a free society: The responsibility of managing a government which is owned by three million plus South Carolinians.

So, much has been given to us and much will be required as we seek tough answers and we make tough decisions. But, I am convinced as I said in opening this speech, that working together we can find those answers, and that working together, we can solve those problems, and that working together we can create more opportunities in the state of South Carolina. God bless you, and thank you very much."

Upon the conclusion of his address, Governor Campbell and his escort party retired from the Chamber.

JOINT ASSEMBLY RECEDES

The purposes of the Joint Assembly having been accomplished, the PRESIDENT announced that under the terms of the Concurrent Resolution the Joint Assembly would recede from business.

The Senate accordingly retired to its Chamber.

THE HOUSE RESUMES

At 7:55 P.M. the House resumed, the SPEAKER in the Chair.

Rep. J. ROGERS moved that the House do now adjourn which was adopted.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:56 P.M., the House in accordance with the motion of Rep. J. ROGERS adjourned to meet at 10:00 A.M. tomorrow.

* * *

Thursday, January 29, 1987
(Statewide Session)

Indicates Matter Stricken
Indicates New Matter

The House assembled at 10:00 A.M.

Deliberations were opened with prayer by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, the Rev. Dr. Alton C. Clark as follows:

O God, our Lord, always near enough to hear us when we pray and to answer us when we call, give us wisdom to perceive You, intellect to understand You, diligence to seek You, minds to meditate upon Your Word, and lives to proclaim Your way—that all our deliberations and actions may be informed and guided by the mind and spirit of our God. Overrule our mistakes; multiply the good things for the welfare of our citizens. Give us Your light to lead us and to dispel our doubts and fears. May the world of justice, brotherhood and peace begin with us.

And to You, our Heavenly Father, be all praise and honor. Amen.

Pursuant to Rule 6.3, the House of Representatives was led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America by the SPEAKER.

After corrections to the Journal of the proceedings of yesterday, the SPEAKER ordered it confirmed.

H. 2178--DEBATE ADJOURNED

The Senate amendments to the following Bill were taken up for consideration.

H. 2178 -- Rep. Rhoad: A BILL TO AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF DENMARK-OLAR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. TWO OF BAMBERG COUNTY TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE DISTRICT UP TO ITS CONSTITUTIONAL DEBT LIMIT TO FUND AN OPERATING DEFICIT; TO PRESCRIBE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH